

## Message Text

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ORIGIN DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /003 R

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DRAFTED BY D/HA:HHEILSNIS

APPROVED BY D/HA:SLOWMAN

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O 242001Z JAN 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 1589 ACTION SECSTATE 24 JAN 76  
QUOTE

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FOR LOWMAN DHA/ORM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, VS

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM DANANG

REFS: A) BANGKOK 1533 B) BANGKOK 1427

1. AS PER SHEPLEY/LOWMAN TELECON 24 JANUARY 76, EMBASSY  
WISHES TO FLAG FOR DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION THE CASE OF  
THREE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED FROM DANANG, VIETNAM,  
ON 20 JANUARY 76, ABOARD GREEK MERCHANT SHIP "FELICITY"  
PRIOR TO THE VESSEL'S DEPARTURE FROM DANANG THE REFUGEES  
LISTED BELOW:

TRAN QUOC DUNG, AGE 18

PHAM NGOC PHIEU, AGE 19

TO VAN LAM, AGE 20

BOARDED THE "FELICITY" AS STOWAWAYS AND WERE TRANSPORTED  
TO BANGKOK.

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2. EMBOFF HAS HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH SHIP'S CAPTAIN AND WITH THE THREE REFUGEES TO ASCERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR PRESENCE ON THE SHIP AND THE INTENTION OF THE SHIP COMMAND WITH RESPECT TO THESE REFUGEES IN THE EVENT THAI AUTHORITIES DO NOT PERMIT THEM TO ENTER THAILAND. THE CAPTAIN IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS HEADQUARTERS IN ATHENS TO TAKE THE ABOVE NAMED REFUGEES BACK TO VIETNAMESE TERRITORIAL WATERS FOR PICKUP BY VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES ENROUTE TO NEXT PORT OF CALL, SINGAPORE, IF REFUGEES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN THAILAND. SHIP IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART BANGKOK AT SIX A.M. MONDAY 26 JANUARY.

3. THE REFUGEES ARE ALL FORMER HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FROM DANANG AND CLAIM THEY ESCAPED FROM VIETNAM BECAUSE OF THEIR STRONG OPPOSITION TO NEW VIETNAMESE REGIME. EMBOFF NOTED SINCERITY OF THEIR RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AND BELIEVES THEIR ANSWERS TO BE LEGITIMATE. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT RELATIVES IN THE U.S., ONLY ONE OF THE REFUGEES, TO VAN LAM, WAS ABLE TO CLAIM AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER IN THE U.S. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED VERIFICATION OF THIS CLAIM IN SEPTEL. (REF B).

4. WHEN THE POSSIBILITY WAS SUGGESTED TO REFUGEES THAT THEY MAY HAVE TO RETURN TO VIETNAM, THEY WERE TERRIFIED AND STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT IT WAS THEIR BELIEF THEY WOULD BE SUMMARILY EXECUTED SHOULD THEY BE FORCIBLY REPATRIATED.

5. IN VIEW OF THE UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES CONCERNING THIS CASE AND THE SHORT TIME FRAME AVAILABLE TO ARRANGE FOR REFUGEES' TEMPORARY ADMISSION INTO THAILAND, EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT CONTACT INS WASHINGTON TO MAKE A CASE FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE PAROLE INTO THE U.S. ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. AS A MATTER OF POLICY, EMBASSY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT VIEW THAT PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISPOSITION OF REFUGEES ARRIVING IN THAILAND RESTS WITH RTG AND UNHCR AND WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THESE ENTITIES TO ASSUME PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE OVERRIDING HUMANITARIAN INTERESTS OF THIS CASE, THE CLAIM OF ONE OF THE REFUGEES TO HAVE A FATHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THE U.S., AND IN RESPONSE TO WRITTEN APPEAL FROM THE UNHCR FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF SHORT TIME FRAME AVAILABLE FOR DISPOSITION OF THIS CASE, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT AN EXCEPTIONAL PROCEDURE IS JUSTIFIED.

6. RESPONSE REQUIRED BY SIX P.M. SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 TO ENSURE ADEQUATE TIME TO ARRANGE IMMIGRATION FORMALITIES WITH THE THAI AUTHORITIES PRIOR TO THE SHIP'S

DEPARTURE.  
MASTERS  
UNQUOTE  
SISCO

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE018838  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** HHEILSNIS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Film Number:** D760028-0676  
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**Subject:** VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM DANANG  
**TAGS:** SREF, VS, TH, (TRAN QUOC DUNG), (PHAM NGOC PHIEU), (TO VAN LAM)  
**To:** GENEVA ATHENS  
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